

REMARKS

1. Status of claims

After entry of the above amendment, claims 10, 17, 19, and 21-27 are pending and under consideration. Claims 1-9, 11-16, 18, 20, and 28-33 are canceled.

2. Support for amendment

The above amendment rewrites claims 10, 17, 19, 24, and 27 in independent form. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

3. Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner rejected claim 33 as allegedly being indefinite. By the above amendment, claim 33 has been canceled. Applicants therefore submit the basis for this rejection has been removed and request it be withdrawn.

4. Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 7-9, 15, 16, 18, 20, and 28-32 as allegedly being unpatentable over Hancock, *et al.*, in view of Ostergaard, *et al.* By the above amendment, claims 7-9, 15, 16, 18, 20, and 28-32 have been canceled. Applicants therefore submit the basis for this rejection has been removed and request it be withdrawn.

5. Allowable subject matter

The Examiner objected to claims 10, 17, 19, and 21-27 as being dependent on a rejected base claim but otherwise allowable. By the above amendment, claims 10, 17, 19, and 21-27

have been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants therefore submit the basis for this objection has been removed and request it be withdrawn.

6. *Conclusion*

Applicants submit all pending claims are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned patent agent at (713) 934-4065 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

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